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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Wednesday, December 15, 2010

**GROUNDBREAKING FOR CROWNPOINT JUDICIAL/PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX
SET FOR FRIDAY**

CROWNPOINT – The groundbreaking for the judicial and public safety complex for Crownpoint is being held Friday, Dec. 17, 2010, beginning at 10 a.m.

The groundbreaking ceremony will be conducted by Navajo Nation Council Delegate Rex Lee Jim. A former court staff member of the Crownpoint Judicial District Court will give the welcome address. Special speakers include Navajo Nation Supreme Court Chief Justice Herb Yazzie, Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley and a representative from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. McGarrett Pablo, chapter president, will give closing remarks.

Special recognition will be given by Delores Greyeyes of the Navajo Department of Corrections and Ed Martin of the Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation.

The groundbreaking ceremony will occur 3.5 miles north of Crownpoint along Highway 371.

The new facility is being constructed using funds from a loan taken out by the Navajo Nation from KeyBank. The cost of the new facility is approximately \$38.7 million. The judicial and public safety facility is expected to house the district court, corrections, law enforcement, probation, peacemaking program, prosecutors and public defenders. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has approved funding in the amount of \$21 million for the facility and an additional \$2.5 million for staff and judges' housing.

The Judicial Branch and the Division of Public Safety are working with Dyron Murphy Architect, Arviso/Okland Construction Company and ARCADIS as the project manager on the new facility.

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